United Nations A/55/892–S/2001/342

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
10 April 2001
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
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Letter dated 6 April 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Jordan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the final communiqué of the Thirteenth Arab Summit Conference, held on 2 and 3 Muharram A.H. 1422, corresponding to 28 and 29 March A.D. 2001, and the Amman Declaration adopted by it. I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex issued and circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 20, 31, 32, 33, 37, 40, 41, 43, 47, 50, 56, 57, 59, 63, 68, 69, 70, 71, 73, 76, 78, 84, 85, 87, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 98, 99, 100, 109, 112, 113, 114, 154, 155, 158, 159, 163, 164 and 182, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Zeid Ra'ad Zeid **Al-Hussein**
Permanent Representative of the Hashemite Kingdom
of Jordan to the United Nations

Annex to the letter dated 6 April 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Jordan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Final communiqué of the Thirteenth Arab Summit Conference Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, 27 and 28 March 2001

1. By kind invitation of His Majesty King Abdullah II Bin Al Hussein, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and in implementation of the resolution taken by the Extraordinary Arab Summit Conference, held in Cairo on 21 and 22 October 2000 to convene a summit-level Council of the League of Arab States meeting in ordinary session once every year in the month of March, to begin in 2001, the summit-level Council was convened in Amman, the capital of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, on 27 and 28 March 2001.

2. The leaders express their deep appreciation to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the care and attention it has given to the preparations for this Summit and for the profound ideas included in the opening address of His Majesty King Abdullah II Bin Al Hussein, the Summit Chairman. They decided to consider it as an official document of the Conference.

3. The leaders also express their profound gratitude to His Excellency President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, for the valuable efforts he made during his chairmanship of the Extraordinary Arab Summit in October 2000.

4. The leaders consider that their convening today in Amman at the first regular periodic Conference constitutes a fresh starting point in the process of joint Arab endeavour that will make it possible to adopt the decisions and initiatives demanded by the Arab situation and to deal with the vital issues of the Nation. In accordance with this view, the leaders unanimously agreed to restore Arab solidarity as a fundamental pillar, a firm bond and the source of the strength of the Nation for the maintenance of its security, the warding off of dangers and the embodiment of the hopes and aspirations of its members for integration and solidarity. This Conference also constitutes an outstanding event and an opportunity for renewed commitment to the principles and fundamentals that form the basis of joint Arab endeavour and to respect for the precepts that govern inter-Arab relations and safeguard the vital interests of the Arab States, within the framework of Arab concord and national security.

5. On the basis of the Pact and goals of the League of Arab States, in an atmosphere of mutual understanding, brotherhood and sincerity, the leaders studied the state of the Nation, the challenges confronting it and the situation in the region and took a comprehensive inventory of regional and international circumstances, focusing on promoting Arab solidarity, reactivating the institutions of joint Arab endeavour, upholding the interests and rights of the Nation and maintaining Arab national security.

6. In this context, the leaders reviewed the grave situation in which the Palestinian people finds itself as a result of the large-scale aggression being waged by the Israeli occupation forces against the Palestinians, using all modes of oppression and all types of weapons, including those internationally prohibited, in addition to the intensification of the economic blockade, the continuation of the

settlement policy, the assassinations, the destruction of homes and the despoiling of the environment, in flagrant violation of agreements and agreed deadlines and in clear breach of the rules of international law, custom and international covenants.

7. The leaders hail with great pride the steadfastness of the Palestinian people, its valiant Intifadah in the face of the ferocious attack being launched by Israel and the opposition it is presenting to the savage repression being practised by the occupation authorities. They laud and hail the valiant martyrs of the Intifadah, commend the spirit of dedication and steadfastness of the Palestinian people, which has been able, with its national leadership and with unswerving resolve and unlimited readiness for self-sacrifice, to oppose the Israeli measures of oppression and frustrate the policy of fait accompli whereby the occupation authorities have sought forcibly to impose their unjust conditions on the Palestinian people and the Palestinian negotiating partner. The leaders declare that they stand with the Palestinian people in its heroic struggle and support its Intifadah and its legitimate right to oppose the occupation in order that it may achieve its just national demands, namely the right of return, the right to self-determination and the right to establish the independent State of Palestine, with Jerusalem as its capital.

8. The Arab leaders hail the steadfastness of the Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan and their adherence to their national identity.

9. The leaders condemn the ongoing Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people. They also condemn Israel's massive violations of human rights, particularly the collective punishments, the dismemberment of the Palestinian territories and the ongoing attacks on vital facilities and Palestinian national institutions, which constitute war crimes, crimes against humanity and racist practices. All these constitute a massive breach of the rules of international humanitarian law, and this situation must be remedied. The upshot is that these Zionist practices still constitute a form of racism. The leaders also call for the resumed convening of the Conference of States Parties to the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 as soon as possible for the adoption of measures to protect Palestinian civilians.

10. The leaders express their extreme displeasure at the United States' use of the veto in the Security Council against the draft resolution concerning the protection of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories and the establishment of a United Nations observer force in those territories. They express their total rejection of the United States excuses, inasmuch as this position is absolutely inconsonant with the responsibility of the United States of America as a sponsor of the peace process and a permanent member of the Security Council, bearing special responsibility with regard to the maintenance of international peace and security.

11. The leaders reaffirm their call to the Security Council concerning the need to assume responsibility for providing the necessary international protection for the Palestinian people suffering under Israeli occupation and the creation of an international force to this end. They call upon the States members of the Security Council, in particular the permanent members, to take the necessary steps for the implementation of those measures.

12. The leaders call upon the Security Council to bring to trial the Israeli war criminals who have perpetrated massacres and other crimes against Arab citizens in all the occupied Arab territories and elsewhere, especially in the light of what was

stated in the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Mary Robinson.

13. The leaders welcome the decision of the Higher Council for the Al-Aqsa Fund and the Al-Quds Intifadah Fund to respond as a matter of urgency to support the budget of the Palestine National Authority by disbursement of the sum of $15 million out of the interest-free loan in the amount of $60 million authorized by the Higher Council on the basis of the proposal made by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In view of the harsh financial and economic circumstances which the Palestinian people is experiencing, they have instructed the Higher Council for the two Funds to comply with the request of the Palestinian National Authority to disburse the additional sum requested, namely $180 million, to support the Authority's budget for the next six months.

The leaders also welcome the allocation by the Republic of Iraq of the sum of 1 billion euros from its oil export sales under the memorandum of understanding to meet the needs of the Palestinian people with regard to food, medicine and other basic requirements and to assist the families of the martyrs of the Intifadah, as an Arab national issue, with a view to supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people and its blessed Intifadah. They charge the Permanent Representatives of the Arab States to the United Nations in New York to follow up and facilitate the request of the Republic of Iraq with the Security Council in regard to this matter.

14. The leaders reaffirm their adherence to the Security Council resolutions concerning the City of Jerusalem, in particular resolutions 252 (1968), 267 (1969), 465 (1980) and 478 (1980), which declare null and void all measures taken, or to be taken, by Israel to change the character of this city, and they urge the world's States to refrain from relocating their embassies to Jerusalem. In this context, the leaders reaffirm the resolutions adopted by the Arab Summit in Amman (1980), Baghdad (1990) and Cairo (2000), calling for the severance of all relations with States that relocate their embassies to Jerusalem or recognize the city as the capital of Israel.

15. The leaders affirm their continuing adherence to a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and the principle of land for peace and guaranteeing legitimate Arab rights and the achievement of security and stability in the region.

16. The Arab leaders warn of the consequences of the Israeli Government's renunciation of the bases, terms of reference and principles upon which the 1991 Madrid peace process was built and the consequences of diverging from them or of putting forward alternatives that do not comply with the principles of international legitimacy. They affirm the inseparability of the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and their close link with the Palestinian track for the achievement of the Arab goals of reactivating all tracks. They warn of the Israeli practices aimed at isolating one track from another and call for Arab coordination. They reaffirm that the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the region requires as a precondition complete Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, from the occupied Syrian Golan Heights to the line of 4 June 1967 and from the remaining occupied Lebanese territory up to the internationally recognized borders, including the Shab`a farmlands, in implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 425 (1978) and the principle of land for peace; enabling the Palestinian people to reclaim its inalienable national rights, including the right of return, compensation in accordance with United Nations General Assembly

resolution 194 (III) for the damage sustained as a result of the Israeli occupation and the establishment of an independent Palestinian State on its national soil with Jerusalem as its capital; and the release of all Arab prisoners from Israeli jails.

17. The leaders charge Israel with full legal responsibility for the existence of the problem of the Palestinian refugees and for their forced displacement. They affirm their rejection of all projects and endeavours aimed at the resettlement of these refugees outside their homeland. They also hold Israel responsible for compensating the Arab host States for the financial burdens that they, in lieu of the international community, have sustained as a result of hosting these refugees.

18. The leaders resolve to continue the suspension of participation by the Arab States in multilateral negotiations and of all measures and activities for regional and economic cooperation with Israel and to hold Israel responsible for such steps and measures as may be taken by the Arab States with regard to Israel and are necessitated by the suspension of the peace process and the escalation of the repressive measures and the blockade imposed by the Israeli occupation authorities on the Palestinian people. The leaders affirm their resolution taken at the Extraordinary Summit in Cairo in 2000 to oppose resolutely Israel's attempts to penetrate the Arab world, under any designation, and to suspend the maintenance of any relations with Israel. They hold Israel responsible for the measures and decisions to be taken by the Arab States in connection with their relations with it, including their severance. They demand the reactivation of the Arab boycott of Israel, through regular convening of the periodic boycott conferences, called for by the main boycott office, with the aim of preventing business with Israel in application of the rules of the boycott.

19. The leaders also affirm their complete solidarity with Syria and Lebanon and reject the Israeli threats that have escalated recently against these fraternal countries. They also reject the dangerous threats directed by Israeli officials against the Arab States, the Palestinian people and its leadership. They condemn the logic of the threat of use of force and affirm the need to study closely the serious situation arising from that and from the Israeli reversal to its racist policy. They call for the drawing up of a clearly defined Arab strategy to expose Israeli plans that do not serve peace and which threaten security and stability in the region. They also reject Israeli attempts to level accusations of terrorism against Arab States that undertake the duty of legitimate national resistance against Israeli occupation of their territory.

20. The leaders affirm their support for Lebanon for the complete liberation of its territory from Israeli occupation up to the internationally recognized boundaries, including the Shab'a farmlands. They hail the role of the brave Lebanese resistance and its admirable steadfastness that have led to the defeat of the Israeli forces in southern Lebanon and the western Bekaa. They demand the release of Lebanese prisoners and detainees from Israeli prisons and endorse the right of Lebanon and its resistance to liberate them using all legitimate means. They support Lebanon's demands that the mines left behind by the Israeli occupation, which bears the responsibility for planting and removing them, be cleared. In this regard, they commend the adoption by the United Arab Emirates of a mine clearance scheme in southern Lebanon. In the face of Israeli ambitions, the leaders also support Lebanon's inalienable rights to its water supplies in accordance with international law.

They reaffirm the resolutions of the Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth Arab Summit Conferences on the need to support and assist the Lebanese Government in the reconstruction of Lebanon, and they commend the assistance provided by the Arab States to Lebanon, including statements of intent, especially in the liberated areas. They call for the reactivation of the Fund for the Support of Lebanon to aid the reconstruction of its infrastructure and its development, especially in areas liberated from Israeli occupation.

21. The leaders affirm that for lasting peace and security in the region to be achieved, Israel must accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and place all of its nuclear facilities under the international inspection and monitoring regime. They also affirm in this connection the extreme importance of ridding the Middle East region of nuclear weapons and of all weapons of mass destruction as a necessary and indispensable precondition for the establishment of any regional security arrangements in the future.

22. The leaders reaffirm that adherence to the peace process requires Israel to implement the agreements and meet the deadlines already arrived at and to build on what has already been achieved. It also requires the resumption of negotiations on all tracks from the point where they stopped, in accordance with their original terms and conditions. The sponsors of the peace process, in particular the United States of America, must assume their responsibilities and obligations in respect thereof on the basis of justice and neutrality.

23. The leaders urge all States concerned with the peace process, in the forefront of which are the States of the European Union, to assume an active role in overcoming the obstacles that impede the peace process in the Middle East.

24. The Arab leaders call upon the United Nations, with its responsibility for preserving international peace and security and as the source of international legitimacy, to play a more active role in implementing its resolutions concerning settlement of the Middle East question.

25. The leaders decide to entrust His Majesty King Abdullah II Bin Al Hussein, the Summit Chairman, to hold consultations with his fellow Arab leaders and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States and to establish the necessary communications for continuing consideration of the situation between Iraq and Kuwait, for the sake of achieving Arab solidarity.

26. The Arab leaders congratulate the fraternal peoples of Bahrain and Qatar and their wise leaderships for settling the border dispute between the two countries. They laud the friendly spirit of brotherhood with which they accepted the decision of the International Court of Justice in this matter. They consider that this significant accomplishment will contribute to the consolidation of the bonds of brotherhood between them and to the promotion of their common interests and will strengthen Arab solidarity, and thus security and stability in the region.

27. The leaders also congratulate the fraternal peoples of Saudi Arabia and Qatar and their wise leaderships for what they have achieved by the demarcation of the border between the two countries. This will help to strengthen the bonds of brotherhood between them and will promote Arab solidarity.

28. The Arab leaders reaffirm the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over its three islands, the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, and their support

for and endorsement of all the peaceful measures it is taking for the restoration of its sovereignty over the three Arab islands. They call upon Iran to end its occupation of the three Arab islands and to desist from pursuing a policy of imposing faits accomplis by force in these three islands, including the construction of installations for the settlement of Iranians there. They urge Iran to pursue peaceful means for the resolution of the ongoing dispute concerning the three Arab islands, in accordance with the principles and norms of international law, including agreement to refer the dispute to the International Court of Justice. The leaders express their regret that Iran has refused to respond positively to the endeavours of the Committee of Three mandated by the Gulf Cooperation Council to devise a mechanism to initiate direct negotiations between the United Arab Emirates and the Islamic Republic of Iran for an end to the Iranian occupation of the three Arab islands. The leaders request the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States to monitor the issue of the Iranian occupation of the islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates and to submit a report thereon to the next Arab Summit Conference.

29. The leaders also renew their support for and solidarity with the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in its request to the Security Council for the immediate and final lifting of the sanctions imposed on it, as their continuation can no longer be justified under any guise and the Arabs will consider themselves finally released from them in the event that they are continued after the Jamahiriya has fulfilled all of the obligations stipulated in the relevant Security Council resolutions. The leaders similarly express their support for the Jamahiriya in seeking compensation for the human and material damage which it suffered as a result of the sanctions imposed on it.

They demand the immediate release of the Libyan citizen Abdel Basset Al-Megrahi, who was convicted for political reasons wholly unconnected with the law, and, in the event that he remains in detention, regard him as a pawn in accordance with every relevant law and custom.

30. The leaders welcome the efforts of the transitional Government in the Somali Democratic Republic to complete full reconciliation, achieve national unity and restore security and stability to the country. They resolutely offer their support for the establishment of security and stability and for the revival of the institutions of the State.

31. The leaders affirm their desire for the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of the Sudan, as well as their support for the joint Egyptian-Libyan initiative to assist the achievement of national harmony in the Sudan. They commend the efforts of the Government of the Sudan in achieving peace and delivering aid to victims and renew their support for the Sudanese Government in its efforts with the Security Council for the lifting of the sanctions imposed on the Sudan.

32. The leaders express their full desire for the national unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros. They welcome the efforts for national reconciliation undertaken by the Government of the Republic of the Comoros in conjunction with the League of Arab States, regional organizations and the United Nations with a view to maintaining unity and achieving full national reconciliation, and resolve to offer the support needed to help reconstruction. In that context, they applaud the initiative of the State of Qatar and its proposal to establish a fund within the framework of the General Secretariat to support the Islamic

Federal Republic of the Comoros, as well as the announcement by His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar, of a donation of $2 million to that fund.

33. The leaders attach special importance to the subject of Arab economic integration and are establishing measures to promote this aspect of joint Arab action so as to achieve a link between shared interests and mutual benefits, as well as strengthen the economic capabilities of their States by adopting an Arab plan that will enable the achievement of full sustainable development and increase joint economic action through positive interaction with the realities of the global economy and the phenomenon of globalization.

34. The leaders express their appreciation for the progress accomplished in establishing a greater Arab free trade zone and commend the work recently achieved in that regard. They are determined to eliminate forthwith restrictions other than those related to customs, together with administrative, technical, financial, monetary and quantitative restrictions, and to reduce progressively, as agreed, all charges and taxes and treat Arab commodities as national commodities in the wider sense.

35. The leaders stress the importance of speeding up the study on the incorporation of trade in services into the greater Arab free trade zone and of preparing to move to an advanced stage of Arab economic integration by establishing an Arab customs union, the follow-up of which they entrust to the Economic and Social Council.

36. The leaders commend the past and ongoing achievements of the Arab States in connection with improving the investment climate and stress the importance of providing greater incentives for investment and of motivating the private sector to assume a wider role in that field. They call upon the Arab financial institutions to help in financing infrastructural projects and private sector projects and charge the Economic and Social Council with reviewing the Unified Agreement for the Investment of Arab Capital in the Arab States with a view to its activation in the light of new international and Arab developments.

37. Bearing in mind the influential role of the transport sector in the various fields of Arab economic integration and cooperation, the leaders assign to the Economic and Social Council the task of working with all the competent agencies with a view to exploring the manifold aspects and dimensions of the transport problem and means of strengthening the land, sea and air links between the Arab States, in addition to the task of submitting its conclusions to the next periodic Arab Summit Conference through the Council of the League of Arab States at the level of Ministers for Foreign Affairs.

38. Aware that the communications and information revolution has started to cross geographical boundaries, the leaders emphasize the need to give priority to developing Arab capabilities in the field of information and communications technology and to regard it as a vital area of Arab cooperation and coordination. They also welcome the request of the United Arab Emirates to host the first meeting of the Arab information technology forum.

39. The leaders appreciate the outstanding role of joint Arab action in investments and integration in the field of electricity and affirm that the vital contribution of this sector requires that the bodies concerned with electricity should endeavour to draw up a specific plan for speeding up the completion and strengthening of Arab electrical links.

40. In view of the growing relative importance of the tourism sector at the Arab level and the competition which it faces at the international level, the leaders highlight the need for all bodies and agencies concerned with inter-Arab tourism and tourist development to stimulate inter-Arab tourism and attract more foreign tourism to the Arab region by promoting investment in this sector and in matters relating to transport services between Arab States and to facilities for entrance to those States.

41. The leaders appreciate the results of the joint Arab action in the field of environment, sustainable development and coordination in international forums. They express their support for the Abu Dhabi Declaration on the future of Arab environmental action as a programme of action in the twenty-first century and underscore the importance of Arab consultation and coordination for the Earth Summit 2002. The leaders also welcome the convening of the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in the Moroccan city of Marrakesh during the period 29 October to 9 November 2001.

42. The leaders welcome the initiative of the Arab Republic of Egypt to hold the first economic conference in Cairo in November 2001 in conjunction with the Governments of the Arab States, the private Arab and foreign sector and regional and international economic institutions and charge the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States with taking the necessary steps, in cooperation with the host States, for the success of the conference.

43. In view of the increasing functions assigned to the technical body in the General Secretariat, they entrust the Secretary-General, together with the Economic and Social Council, with the task of supporting and developing that body with a view to triggering the Arab mechanisms and institutions responsible for following up joint Arab economic action. In association with the organizations and institutions for Arab action, the Economic and Social Council is responsible for the preparation of economic topics and their presentation to the Council of the League of Arab States at the level of Ministers for Foreign Affairs as a preliminary to their submission to the Summit.

44. Having reviewed relations with neighbouring States, the leaders stress the importance of strengthening cooperation with those States, in particular Iran and Turkey, that have historical and cultural connections, as well as joint interests, with the Arab homeland. The leaders regard the question of water, including its legal, economic and security aspects, as extremely crucial for the Arab Nation. On that basis, they call upon Turkey to enter into tripartite negotiations with Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic in accordance with the provisions of international law and the agreements concluded between them with a view to reaching a just and equitable agreement for the division of water that takes into account the rights of the three countries.

45. On the basis of the historical and cultural intermingling and the joint interests which unite our Arab Nation with the countries of the African continent, they highlight the continuing efforts to promote Afro-Arab cooperation and eliminate the obstacles which impede meetings of their respective bodies and the implementation of joint programmes. They charge the Secretary-General with the task of following up his contacts in that connection with his counterpart in the Organization of African Unity. In this context, they welcome the hosting of the Standing

Commission for Afro-Arab Cooperation by the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria at a meeting to be held in Algiers.

46. The leaders believe in the importance of developing and furthering Arab-European relations, including revival of the Arab-European dialogue, in order to achieve balanced and equal interests.

47. The leaders discussed the affairs of Arab expatriates in foreign States, particularly in the two Americas and Europe, and welcomed the growing role being played by Arab expatriate communities and the marked involvement of Arab and Islamic associations in the causes of the Nation. They express their concern to devote full attention to the circumstances of Arab expatriates, take care of their interests and strengthen their bond with the motherland.

48. The leaders express their gratitude and appreciation to His Excellency Dr. Ahmed Esmat Abdel Meguid for his most competent and capable management of the affairs of the joint Arab action during his period of office as Secretary-General of the League of Arab States; with his extensive experience and political acumen, he has helped to maintain harmony and consonance among the members of the League of Arab States and instil fresh values and principles with a view to reviving Arab solidarity and promoting the institutions of joint Arab action in times of critical Arab and international circumstances and changes.

49. The leaders were unanimous in their choice of His Excellency Mr. Amre Moussa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt, as Secretary-General of the League of Arab States. They acclaim the diplomatic skill and outstanding ability which qualify him to lead joint Arab action at the head of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States at this stage and wish him the best of luck and success in his work.

50. In the interests of enabling the League of Arab States to fulfil its mission, perform its tasks, implement its programmes and carry out its activities, the leaders charged the Secretary-General of the League with taking the necessary steps and proposing appropriate formulas for the reform of all financial, administrative and organizational aspects of the General Secretariat of the League with a view to restructuring it, enhancing its working methods and performance and enabling it to address national requirements and keep pace with new developments at the regional and international levels. In that respect, they welcome all the proposals submitted by member States, including the paper submitted by the State of Qatar and the proposal tabled by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

51. The leaders express their gratitude to the Chairman and members of the Follow-up and Action Committee established by the Extraordinary Arab Summit in Cairo for their efforts to implement the Summit resolutions and stress its importance as an essential working mechanism responsible for following up implementation of those resolutions and taking the initiative in the regional and international arenas. They are resolved that it should continue its work, bearing in mind that the chairmanship of the Summit, in consultation with the Arab leaders, is responsible for its formation and that it convenes its meetings every two months at the ministerial level and every month at the level of permanent representatives or personal representatives of ministers at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the League or in a member State which requests to host its activities.

52. In accordance with the statements concerning the mechanism for the periodic convening of the Council of the League of Arab States and in the light of the agreement concluded between the United Arab Emirates and the Lebanese Republic concerning alternation of the chairmanship of the Summit between them, the leaders hereby decide to convene the fourteenth ordinary session of the summit-level Council of the League of Arab States in Beirut, the capital of the Lebanese Republic, during March 2002. Bahrain will then assume the chairmanship of the fifteenth session in accordance with the rule of the alphabetical order of member States in assuming the chairmanship of the Summit.

The leaders express their sincere compliments and immense indebtedness to their brothers, the Jordanian people, for the friendly reception and generous hospitality given to the delegations participating in the Arab Summit, as well as their great appreciation to His Majesty King Abdullah II Bin Al Hussein, for his prodigious efforts to ensure the successful conclusion of work of the Summit Conference and for the excellence of its preparation and organization. They commended the prudence, diligence and competence with which His Majesty administered the working sessions, which had a profound influence on the success of the Summit and on the culmination of the meetings in significant results which are conducive to promoting the progress of joint Arab action, achieving the supreme interests of the Arab Nation and helping to maintain pan-Arab security.

The Amman Declaration issued by the summit-level Council of the League of Arab States

Thirteenth session

27 and 28 March 2001

We, the Kings, Heads and Amirs of the Arab States, assembled as the summit-level Council of the League of Arab States (thirteenth ordinary session) in Amman, capital of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, on 2 and 3 Muharram A.H. 1422, corresponding to 27 and 28 March A.D. 2001,

Having conducted an overall assessment of the Arab situation, inter-Arab relations and the circumstances of the Nation and in the light of the challenges faced by the Nation, the threats which undermine pan-Arab security and the deadlock reached in the Middle East peace process,

Taking into consideration the changes in the global system, in particular the information revolution, globalization, the emergence of major regional blocs and the interplay between civilizations and cultures,

Proceeding from pan-Arab responsibility and the desire to strengthen and develop Arab relations so as to achieve the overriding objectives of the Nation, preserve its dignity and safeguard pan-Arab security, declare our resolve:

- To adhere to national ties and the bonds of fraternity which unite the inhabitants of the Nation and the objective of its peoples, to abide by the principles and purposes of the Pact of the League of Arab States, to maintain pan-Arab security on the basis of respect for the integrity of each State and its sovereignty over its territory, resources and rights, to prohibit interference in the internal affairs of each State and the use of force or threat of use of force, to abide by the settlement of disputes by peaceful means and through dialogue and negotiation, and to comply with the mechanisms for the peaceful settlement of disputes;

- To emphasize commitment to the decision to convene the Arab Summit periodically at its appointed time in view of the importance of so doing for the continuing development of joint Arab action;

- To endeavour to strengthen Arab solidarity and promote joint Arab action in order to achieve economic integration among the Arab States in accordance with a new methodology based on practical and objective principles and premises and by virtue of accumulative and progressive action that safeguards the particularity and national interests of each State while simultaneously achieving continual rapprochement and sectoral cooperation between Arab institutions and bodies having a similar nature and sharing a common approach in the Arab countries;

- To promote communication among citizens in the Arab countries so as to strengthen the link between their interests and their role in triggering development, fortifying the Nation, protecting its identity, stimulating its role and enhancing its status;

- To encourage interaction with other cultures and civilizations as laid down in our merciful message, which renounces all forms of discrimination and racism and calls for tolerance and coexistence on the basis of mutual respect and the preservation of legitimate rights;

- To provide full support for our Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese brothers in their struggle for the reinstatement of their legitimate rights, affirming that Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied in 1967, primarily Jerusalem, as well as from the Syrian Golan Heights to the borders of 4 June and from the Lebanese territory still under occupation, is the only approach to the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, such achievement being the sole guarantee of security for all, just as the achievement of lasting peace in the region is linked to ridding it of all weapons of mass destruction, in particular Israeli nuclear arms. We appeal to all effective forces and the parties concerned with the maintenance of international peace and security to shoulder their responsibilities in that regard as part of a comprehensive and balanced methodology and singular criteria;

- To call for the lifting of sanctions from Iraq and for action to deal with the humanitarian issues in connection with Kuwaiti prisoners and disappeared persons, as well as with Iraqi and other disappeared persons, proceeding from the principles of our national, religious and human heritage;

- To call upon everyone to rise above disputes and strive for the achievement of Arab conciliation, as well as to refrain from anything, including media activities, which is likely to harm Arab solidarity, threaten pan-Arab security or undermine the national security of any of our States, without affecting freedom of expression and the role of the media, the press and intellectuals in creating a pan-Arab public opinion that supports and promotes joint Arab action and in defending the causes of the Nation and the rights of citizens, in particular the rights of the Arab person;

- To take the necessary steps, in accordance with the circumstances of each State, to accelerate completion of the greater Arab free trade zone and provide full support to the Arab ministerial committee formed as a mechanism to follow up the implementation of Summit resolutions.

In conclusion, we express our immense appreciation to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan under the leadership of His Majesty King Abdullah II Bin Al Hussein for his attention, care and outstanding preparation in connection with the convening of this Summit, affirming our full confidence in His Majesty's leadership in directing joint Arab action, given the breadth of his experience, wisdom and responsibility and his efforts to strengthen Arab solidarity.